GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:49
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
Fluoride affected Habitations in A.P.
Galla Shri Jayadev

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of habitations and districts in Andhra Pradesh affected by fluoride in drinking water;
(b) the steps taken by the Government to make them fluoride-free; and
(c) the details of technical and financial assistance provided to the State Government by the Union Government to deal with the situation during each of the last two years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) District-wise number of fluoride affected habitations in rural drinking water sources as reported by the States into Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 30/01/2017 is at Annexure-I.

(b) & (C) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation assists the States technically and financially in providing safe drinking water through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Up to 67% fund allocated to the States can be utilized for coverage of water quality affected habitations and for tackling water quality problems in rural areas of the country with priority to arsenic and fluoride affected habitation. In addition to this, Government of India provides 3% NRDWP funds on 100% Central assistance basis to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance, which inter alia include taking up works relating to setting up of new up-gradation of districts/sub district water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, providing field test kits/refills to Gram Panchayats etc. Further, up to 10% of NRDWP funds allocated to States could be utilized for sustainability of drinking water sources through artificial recharge of ground water and other methods, which inter alia may also dilute the level of contamination in aquifers. The Ministry has informed all the States to commission surface water based piped water supply schemes in all water quality affected habitations as a long term sustainable solution. However, since commissioning of Piped Water Supply projects may take 3-5 years and the rural people cannot be put to risk of consuming contaminated water during this period, all States have been advised to install community water purification plants, in reported arsenic and fluoride affected habitations by March 2017. This is being done as a short term immediate measure for providing 8-10 lpcd (litre per capita per day) of safe water for drinking and cooking purpose only. On recommendation of NITI Aayog, the Government of India had released Rs 21.26 crore to Andra Pradesh in March' 2016 to install community water purification plants in 394 fluoride affected habitations by March' 2017 so that 8-10 litres per capita per day of safe drinking water is made available, for drinking and cooking purposes to the affected rural population.

An amount of Rs. 377.78 Crore, Rs. 170.05 Crore were released during 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively and Rs. 139.23 Crores as central assistance has been released to State of Andhra Pradesh during the Current Financial year.

The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has set up a High Level Expert Committee in 2014 on Rural Drinking and Sanitation under chairmanship of Prof. Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Ex. DG-CSIR, Government of India. So far, Expert Committee has held seven meetings and suggested 30 technologies for drinking water. Recommended technologies which have been uploaded on the website of the Ministry for considering adoption by the States. However, adoption of the technologies suggested by Prof. Mashelkar Committee is only suggestive in nature for the States because choice of the technologies rests totally with the States.

To assist the States to get familiar with latest technologies pertaining to Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, the Ministry organized series of exhibitions - Indovation-I in August 2014, Indovation-II in January 2015 and Indovation-III in July 2015. These events were followed up by presentations from different select organizations.